

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge



Special Events

Monarch Madness

Saturday, September 15, 9:00 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m.



Calling citizen scientists of all ages! Neal Smith NWR is looking for volunteers to assist Refuge staff in capturing, tagging, and releasing monarch butterflies. Tagging monarchs helps scientists learn more about their fascinating migration. **Pre-registration is required and limited to the first 100 participants.** Please call 515-994-3400 or email Cheryl_groom@fws.gov.

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 29, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort of public lands. Last year, 175,000 volunteers celebrated across the country. Join us for a chance to volunteer and create native tallgrass prairie at the Refuge by collecting native plant seeds. The first 45 participants will receive a coupon for a Fee-Free day at participating federal agencies. **Pre-registration required.** Please call 515-994-3400 or email Cheryl_groom@fws.gov.



National Wildlife Refuge Week ~ Seed Collection Day

Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

In honor of J.N. "Ding" Darling, a pioneer conservationist, the Refuge is hosting stewardship opportunities for you and/or your group. Collecting seeds will be the focus of this stewardship day. Everyone will have a chance to help restore prairie habitat at the Refuge. A FREE lunch will be provided by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR. **Pre-registration is required.** Call 515-994-3400 or email Cheryl_groom@fws.gov.



All programs are FREE and open to the public!



Like "Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge" on Facebook!



Meandering with Nature



Beginning in September, the Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge are offering this new monthly program on Saturday afternoons, 2:00-3:00 pm. Each session will have a different theme providing ways to reconnect to the land, learn and experience how calming and healing nature can be. You will learn how to integrate into your daily life the techniques presented at each session to reduce stress, increase happiness and develop a sense of wonder.

Date	Time	Age	Topic
Saturday, September 15	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All ages	Why is Nature so Important?
Saturday, October 20	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All ages	Nature Art Walks
Saturday, November 17	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All ages	Your neighborhood Nature Connection

Nature Tots

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult and join us as we read stories, go outside, make nature crafts, and much more! Pre-registration is requested. To register or for more information, please call 515-994-3400 or email nancy_corona@fws.gov.

Date	Time	Age	Topic
Saturday, September 1	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 – 5	Magical Monarchs
Saturday, October 6	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 – 5	Colorful Leaves
Saturday, November 3	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 - 5	Prairie Seed Harvest



Fall Photo Hikes

Photographers of all skill levels are invited to join a ranger-led walk. Discover the prairie flowers and wildlife using your lens. Meet at the Prairie Learning Center. Be prepared for the weather and walking off the trails.

Please pre-register by calling 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_Vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Date	Time	Age
Sunday, September 16	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	All Ages
Saturday, October 20	7:00 am - 9:00 am	All Ages
Sunday, November 18	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	All Ages

All programs are FREE and open to the public!



Naturalist Programs

Exploring Oak Savanna Sunday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m.

All Ages Welcome—ideal for ages 6—10.

Join us for activities and a hike as summer comes to a close and the leaves in the Oak Savanna start to turn. Together we will learn about plants and animals that call the wonderful Oak Savanna habitat home, and hopefully spot a few critters along the way! To register or for more information call 515/994-3400 or email Kieran_bowe@fws.gov.



Sticky Seed Situation Sunday, October 21, 2:00 — 3:30 p.m.

All Ages Welcome—ideal for ages 6—10.

Fall has begun and prairie plants are bursting with seeds! We will study the way seeds travel and create their own hypothesis about prairie seeds. We will dive deep into the prairie to search for the secrets of seeds. Please come prepared for the weather and ready to have some fun. To register, please call 515/994-3400 or email Patrick_Bryant@fws.gov.

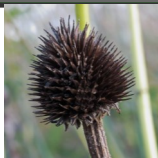


Animal Homes on the Refuge Sunday, November 18, 2:00—3:30 p.m.

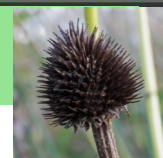
All Ages Welcome—ideal for ages 6—10.

If you were an animal, where would you live? Explore this question and more as we examine how different animals build homes and what they need to survive. Hike the refuge and search for hidden homes, and put yourself into an animal's shoes as you try to find your own home on the refuge! To register, please call 515/994-3400 or email Patrick_Bryant@fws.gov.





Volunteer Opportunity



Second Saturday Stewardship

Interested in giving back to the environment and learning about the prairie? Stewardship volunteer programs occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Refuge. **To register, call 515/994-3400 or email NancyCorona@fws.gov.**



DON'T FORGET!

Bring a reusable
water bottle!

Date	Time	Age
September 8	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
October 13	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
November 10	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All

Gallery Exhibits

September—October Denise Keys will be the exhibitor.

November—December Photography Contest winners will be on exhibit.

These exhibits will be displayed in the J.N. “Ding” Darling Art Gallery at the Prairie Learning and Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center is open every day with the exception of most federal holidays. Closed all federal holidays except Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Saturday, and 12 p.m. - 5p.m. on Sundays. Trails and Auto Tour are open daily from dawn to dusk.

Hiking Trails

Take a hike through the beautiful tallgrass prairie or oak savanna. Try to catch a glimpse of birds, bison, or diverse insects.

Brochures and maps available at the Visitor Center.



Return to Wildness Movie

Fifteen minute film presentation about Neal Smith NWR is shown every hour on the half hour, or upon request. No group is too small!

COME VISIT!

Enjoy the Refuge from the comfort of your vehicle on the 4 mile Auto Tour. This is the best way to see bison or elk. Check out a narrated interpretive CD of the route for FREE at the Visitor Center.



Follow Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge for activity updates!